



THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY



Please note date change

BCS Oxfordshire Branch

BCS Oxfordshire Branch Christmas Lecture 2005 Tuesday 29 November 2005*

Computability and Crime - How Information Security Affects Criminal Prosecutions

(Mulled wine and mince pies will be served at the Lamb and Flag after the meeting)

The British Computer Society Oxfordshire Branch is delighted to announce its Christmas Lecture, the next meeting in its programme of meetings for the forthcoming year. We are sending this announcement to you as a number of our members and non-member attendees come from your catchment area.

The next BCS Oxon Meeting of 2005 is to be held on Tuesday next week , 29th November 2005. Our speaker is Prof: Neil Barrett BSc PhD CEng FBCS CITP. Neil gave us a talk in September last year; his presentation was hailed as informative, interesting and witty. The talk and topic were so popular, that we just had to ask him to return. He is back for our Christmas Lecture and will talk about: "COMPUTABILITY AND CRIME: How Information Security Affects Criminal Prosecutions", or, "You Can't Get There From Here...How computability affects the issues of computer evidence"

Neil is a distinguished academic, author and security consultant. He is frequently interviewed in the press, on radio and television, and often appears as an expert witness in court. He has recently been appointed European Commission Trustee in the Microsoft antitrust case, and his sixth book is due to be published next year.

As computers become implicitly involved in the execution, detection and prosecution of increasing numbers of cases, the issue of activity and responsibility becomes correspondingly more important. But ascribing responsibility for computer-recorded events is built on the foundation of information security – a poorly understood, poorly implemented aspect of our high-tech world. In this talk, he will explore the practical and theoretical limits of information security, and show that – at least in theory – a perfect solution is impossible and that we will therefore always be faced with 'judgement calls' in this crucial forensic arena.

For a full description of the event, please refer to our branch website at <http://www.oxon.bcs.org/program2005-6.htm#Dec>

As usual, the meeting starts at 7:30pm and ends at approximately 9pm, with coffee and biscuits available from 7pm at Wolfson Building in the Centre of Oxford - exact details are available at <<http://www.oxon.bcs.org/location.htm>> The talk will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Lamb and Flag, where we can continue our discussion with our speaker.

The meeting is open to both members and non-members.

Please visit our Branch Web site at <<http://www.oxon.bcs.org>> to find out more information about this and all events we are running this year. You will find the full programme at <http://www.oxon.bcs.org/program2005-6.htm> from where it can also be downloaded as a PDF or entered into your favourite personal calendar as iCal or vCal files (Mozilla® Sunbird®, Outlook® or other iCalendar compatible diary).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

You are cordially invited to attend our branch meetings. More details of all the events and other Oxfordshire Branch activities can be found at www.oxon.bcs.org

For further information contact:

Stef Coetzee
Press and Publicity Officer
The British Computer Society
Tel: 07782 167000
Mail: stef.coetzee@bcs.org

Are you a member of the BCS? The BCS encourages new members. It's never been easier to join the BCS, apply online by visiting <http://www.bcs.org/BCS/Join/welcome.htm>

Members of the BCS under 35 are automatically a member of the Young Professionals Group (YPG), dedicated to providing representation, services and a support network to all BCS members under the age of 35, including student and career planning resources. Visit <http://www.ypg.bcs.org/>

The British Computer Society (BCS) is the industry body for IT professionals and a Chartered Engineering Institution for Information Technology.

The BCS is responsible for setting standards for the IT profession. It is also leading the change in public perception and appreciation of the economic and social importance of professionally managed IT projects and programmes. In this capacity, the Society advises, informs and persuades industry and government on successful IT implementation.

**Note: A few months ago Neil was appointed as the 'Monitoring Trustee' for the European Union case against Microsoft. At short notice Neil has been called to meetings with the Commissioner in Brussels on 1st December before 'substantive' meetings with the involved parties on the 2nd, hence the change of date from the original published Dec 1st date to Nov 29th*